(b) whether Government are also aware that even though there was a huge spill during the Iran-Iraq war, comparable in size to the present one, its effects have not been permanent or significant;

(c) whether Government are aware that although the Mina-al-Ahmadi pollution is at least three times larger than the Torrey Canyon Spill, in view of the tropical climate in the enclosed sea Gulf, and the benefit of microbial action which breaks down the toxic chemicals in crude oil leaving minerals, the impact of Gulf oil slick would be far less; and

(d) if so, what steps Government propose to take to educate the public on these exaggerated reports of environmentalists?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRIMATI MANEKA GANDHI): (a) to (d) The eco-system of the Gulf is being studied by UN agencies and countries concerned. No conclusive reports are available..

Deputy Prime Minister's visit to Oslo

431. SHRI SHANTI TYAGI: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Deputy Prime Minister, Shri Devi Lal, during his recent visit to Oslo, committed a breach of protocol by not attending a reception which was advanced by the new king of Norway; and

(b) if so, what has been the reaction of the Government of Norway thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE (SHRI KAMAL MORARKA): (a) Deputy Prime Minister did not commit any breach of Protocol. He attended the Reception of the new King of Norway.

(b) does not arise.

Quota of telephone connections recommended by M.Ps.

432. DR. RATNAKAR PANDEY: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Members of Parliament are entitled to recommend telephone connections out of their quota fixed by the Government recently;

(b) if so, how many recommendations have been made by Members of Parliament since the announcement of the scheme and how many telephone connections have been sanctioned so far; and

(c) whether Government have received numerous complaints from Members of Parliament for not sanctioning of telephones promptly and non-intimation to Members of Parliament and if so, what steps are being taken for sending prompt replies to Members of Parliament in this regard?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS AND THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI JAI PARKASH): (a) Yes, Sir. An announcement to this effect has already been made.

(b) The information is being collected and will be placed on the Table of the House.

(c) No, Sir.

Lift irrigation potential in A.P.

433. SHRI TALARI MANOHAR: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) what is the total lift irrigation potential in Andhra Pradesh; and

(b) the extent to which it has been exploited so far?

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES WITH ADDITIONAL CHARGE OF MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI MANUBHAI KOTADIA): (a) and (b) Out of 74.90 lakh hectares

of minor irrigation schemes potential including lift irrigation in the State of Andhra Pradesh about 28.62 lakh hectares is reported as exploited by the end of VIIth Plan.

DTC Losses

434. SHRI GHUFRAN AZAM: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the losses of the DTC are mounting day by day;

(b) if so, the total losses suffered by DTC during 1989-90 and 1990-91;

(c) whether Government have recently contemplated any fresh steps to bring down the losses of the DTC;

(d) whether in view of higher losses, Government propose to revise its fare structure; and

(e) if so, by when?

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES WITH ADDITIONAL CHARGE OF THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI MANUBHAI KOTADIA): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The losses incurred by DTC during 1989-90 and 1990-91 (upto January, 1991) are as under:

Year	Working loss excluding depreciation and interest charges	Net loss including depreciation and interest charges.
1989-90 (Provistonal)	5757 50 lakhs	11984·56 lakhs
1990-91 (Provisional) (Upto January, 1991)	6379·58 lakhs	13611·50 lakhs

(c) to (e) A proposal to revise the DTC fares is under consideration of the Government. If revised the DTC fares it can be expected that the losses in the DTC could be brought down considerably. DTC are also taking steps on a continuing basis to increase productivity, reduce cost per unit and enforce economy measures, prevent leakages with a view to increase revenue collection and reduce working losses. Rationalisation of routes is another measure which is being undertaken by DTC for improving its performance.

Replacement of Fleet of Shipping Vessels

435. SHRI HARVENDRA SINGH HANSPAL: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have directed the Shipping Credit and Investment Corporation of India Limited ensure high quality shipping vessels in India by replacing existing fleet during the Eighth Plan;

(b) if so, the expenditure involved in replacing the existing fleet with the high quality shipping vessels; and

(c) the manner in which Government or SCICI propose to replace the full fleet?

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES WITH ADDITIONAL CHARGE OF THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI MANUBHAI KOTADIA): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Based on the existing age norms, a total of 183 overaged vessels are due to be replaced in the Eighth Plan. Out of these, as many as 87 vessels need to be replaced by the end of 1991 itself. However, due to resource constraints, higher prices currently ruling for second hand